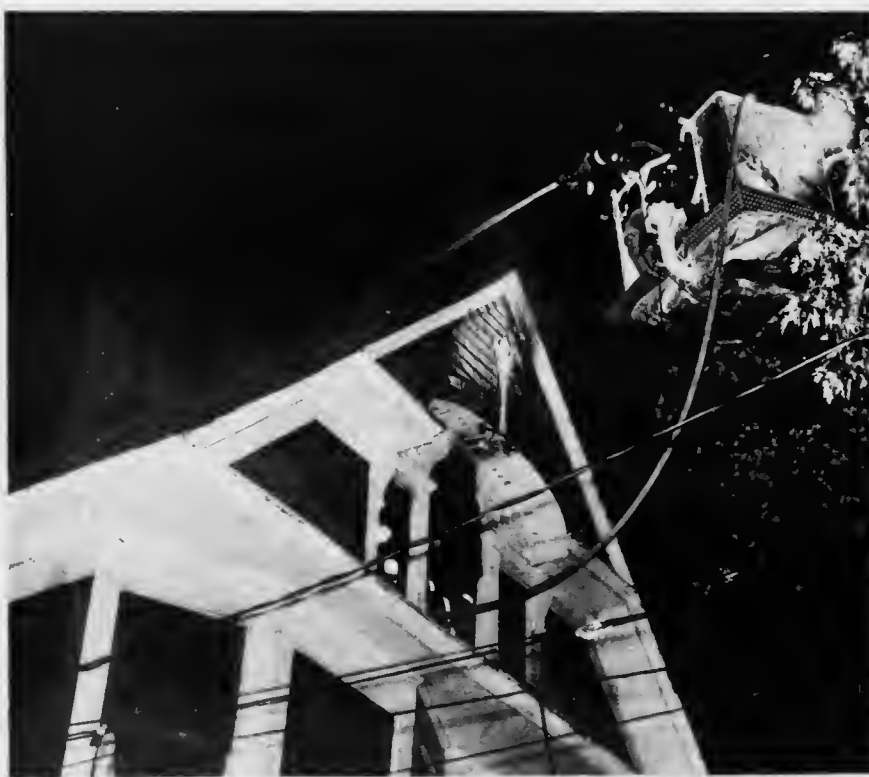


Fire again strikes school superintendent's home

## Fire destroys city home Monday



City fireman breathes in fresh air after making way through Calabro home, 45 Garfield Ave., Carbon-  
dale, early Monday. Smoke from hole in attic wall  
pours out from above his head. See story at right.  
Additional fire and police reports can be found on  
page 3. (MIRROR photos by Al Daugevelo)



Firefighter David Jones directs water onto roof of Mrs. Judith Calabro's home at 45  
Garfield Ave., Carbondale, early Monday.

For the second time in just over a year,  
a home of Carbondale Area Schools  
superintendent Judith Calabro was  
struck by fire.

The latest came early Monday when an  
alarm came in at 2:10 a.m.  
City police received the initial alarm  
and turned in box 23 near the 45 Garfield  
Ave., Carbondale, home of the  
superintendent.

Responding were Truck 1, Truck 3,  
Engine 4, and Engine 2, driven by Francis  
Columan, Tom Brennan, Joseph Burrell,  
Ed Gray, and David Jones.

Standing by during the fire were  
Engines 5 and 1.  
The fire was sounded out at 4:53 a.m.  
Fire Chief William Burrell told the  
MIRROR that the home was fully  
engulfed when firefighters arrived on the  
scene.

He said that the fire had been burning  
for quite a while before the alarm was  
turned in.

The fire was confined mostly to the  
attic area of the East Side home.  
Mrs. Calabro was out-of-town at the  
time of the fire, reportedly visiting the  
new home of a sister in Scranton.

A state fire marshal was on the scene  
around noon Monday, investigating the  
fire.

It was on June 14, 1980, that fire struck  
the Park Street home of Mrs. Calabro.

Carbondale city council concerned itself  
with a host of different matters Monday  
night, including PCB's, the dangerous  
cancer-causing agents, and mine fires.

The council, with all present, listened as  
Councilwoman Charlotte Moro told her fel-  
low lawmakers that some residents are  
greatly concerned over the fact that old  
transformers are stored in an area off Dun-  
daff Street.

City managing director Martin P. Judge  
replied that the state's Department of Envi-  
ronmental Resources (DER) had been con-  
tacted about the situation about a month  
ago.

He added that he had heard nothing back  
from the state department.  
Mrs. Moro said that a group of residents  
there were threatening to go to a local televi-  
sion station to have the problem aired.

Mine fire?

The East Side mine fire, located in Car-  
bondale Township, but a threat to the city,

again surfaced at Monday night's council  
session.

Councilman Frank Grecco sought an  
answer whether it would have been cheaper  
for the state to dig out the fire or to drill the  
boreholes it did to determine if the fire had  
reached the mines dotting that area.

Told that it probably would have been  
cheaper to just dig it out, Grecco was joined  
in his concern by Ed Krantz, a spectator,  
who questioned if council realized the actual  
seriousness of the problem.

Challenge PP&L

Councilman Albert Calzoza asked Judge  
if the city were going to challenge the rate  
increases sought by Pennsylvania Power  
and Light Co. (PP&L).

He noted that he could not see the rate  
increase go unchallenged.  
Judge said that he wanted to meet with the  
city solicitor on the matter.

Calzoza also stressed that caution lights  
should be placed near the schools in the city.

He said he was told by PennDOT that it was  
the school district's responsibility.

Another matter of safety was voiced by  
Councilwoman Moro who requested that  
street lights be placed on the stretch of road  
between Brooklyn Street and the bridge  
leading to the Summit Gardens Complex.

Her request brought Judge's reply that  
PP&L is awaiting word from Allied Services  
regarding the location of driveways on its  
proposed apartment along that road.

This reply brought some discussion about  
Allied's intentions since it has been nearly  
two years since Allied first took an option on  
the West Side land. From time to time,  
Allied has sought and received extensions  
from the solons.

Auditor general in

Councilman Michael Tolercio asked if  
there were any word from the auditor gen-  
eral regarding council's request for an inves-

Continued on page 3

## PCB's, mine fires make up council's session

## False alarm delays city firemen from fire

By PETE SMITH

Carbondale fire chief William Burrell  
issued a severe warning regarding false fire  
alarms following a nightmarish occurrence  
last Wednesday night when city firemen  
responded to a false alarm while a home  
across town burned.

While firemen responded to a reported  
fire at 31 Summit Ave., they received a  
simultaneous report from Lackawanna  
County Comm Center of a structure fire on  
Archbald Street. There was no fire at the  
Summit Avenue address, and firetruck drivers  
had problems getting to Archbald Street  
where a fire was in progress.

When firefighters finally arrived, a good  
three minutes after they received the call, the  
home of Fred Telerio, 57 Archbald St., was  
already totally engulfed. "When we arrived  
smoke was pulling out of the modular home, but due to the  
high temperatures were forced to retreat.

To back up his statement Burrell related  
how on his tour throughout the structure  
after the fire was out, he saw much evidence  
that firefighters at first donned air packs to  
escape. A plastic stall was melted and  
twisted from the heat. Strips from between  
the ceiling tiles were dripping. The smoke  
detectors on the walls were hot and unrecog-  
nizable mounds of plastic. "What the flames  
didn't damage, the heat did," Chief Burrell  
said.

The tremendous heat from the fire  
spurred Burrell to comment that anyone  
within the home would not have safely  
escaped.

First-arriving units to the fire scene found  
the flames in the rear of the home. Fire

Eight Avenue hill to Archbald Street and  
was greeted by a roadblock — a tractor-  
trailer blocking the hill after it had taken a  
wrong turn from Route 6.

Because of the false alarm and the tractor-  
trailer blocking the hill, it was a good three  
minutes before the trucks arrived at the  
scene of the fire. "The first three minutes of a  
fire are the most important," Chief Burrell  
said. And because the trucks were late due to  
the false alarm, Burrell feels the fire had a  
good start.

One of the problems firemen faced at the  
conflagration, was the tremendous heat.  
"The human lungs can withstand air tempera-  
tures up to 250 degrees," Burrell pointed  
out. "But I estimate that the temperature  
had to be 2,500 degrees in there." He added  
that firefighters at first donned air packs to  
escape. A plastic stall was melted and  
twisted from the heat. Strips from between  
the ceiling tiles were dripping. The smoke  
detectors on the walls were hot and unrecog-  
nizable mounds of plastic. "What the flames  
didn't damage, the heat did," Chief Burrell  
said.

The tremendous heat from the fire  
spurred Burrell to comment that anyone  
within the home would not have safely  
escaped.

First-arriving units to the fire scene found  
the flames in the rear of the home. Fire

damaged the kitchen and back porch area,  
and had made its way into the ceiling.  
Twenty-two firefighters fought the blaze  
under Burrell's direction and were on the  
scene approximately three hours.

Cause of the fire is under investigation.  
Meanwhile, Chief Burrell once again re-  
luctantly issued his stern warning about turning in  
false fire alarms. "Calling in a false alarm or  
pulling a box for no reason ties up the fire  
apparatus and manpower. Then, what hap-  
pened Wednesday night, takes place and the  
lives of the occupants as well as the firefigh-  
ters responding are endangered.

"And all for the thrill of seeing the trucks  
roll."

False alarms have been high for this year,  
particularly for this quarter, according to  
the fire chief. "So far, this quarter alone, we  
have had 10 false alarms," he reported.

"That's not only high for a three month  
period, that's high for a full year."

Burrell's comment is supported every  
week in the Mirror's police docket. This  
week it is no different with two false  
alarms on Tuesday evening, one Wednesday  
evening, and another on Saturday morning.  
(See police docket.) However, false alarms  
at Carbondale General which come in fre-  
quently are usually attributed to an overly-  
sensitive fire detector.

Chief Burrell in his stern reminder to city  
residents about false fire alarm reports,  
stressed that if anyone is caught turning in a  
false alarm, they will be prosecuted to the  
full extent of the law.

## Modad Taxi Co. buys out Ashby Taxi firm's equipment

By NAN WATERS

Don't dial 282-1166 today to hail an  
Ashby Taxicab. The number won't answer.  
Last Friday afternoon Robert R. Ashby,  
the owner of the two-year-old firm, sold his  
"rolling stock," (five cabs) and radio dis-  
patching equipment to Modad Taxi Com-  
pany of Carbondale for an undisclosed  
amount.

Ashby vehemently denied a  
rumor that he had also sold his Aero Service  
Station, at the Corner of Lincoln Avenue  
and North Main Street in Carbondale to  
Charles Utter, who operates a gas station  
on Canaan Street.

In a telephone interview with the MIRROR  
last Sunday afternoon, Ashby, a resi-  
dent of Pearl Street, and a Carbondale Area  
School Board director, explained that he is  
devoting time to refurbishing the Western  
Hotel, 7 Salem Avenue, the former Liberty  
Hotel, which he purchased some six months  
ago. That facility, Ashby said, houses a tav-  
ern and 18 upstairs rooms.

Ashby emphasized that he had not "sold out  
his taxicab company," but that the Ashby  
firm had "gone out of business."

A spokesman for the James Gilla family  
of Shamrock Avenue, Carbondale, which  
operates both the Modad firm and Carbon-  
dale Transfer, said they would continue  
operation of both companies. The Gilla  
bought out the existing taxi service in  
October, 1973, from the late Lewis Davis,  
consisting of the Modad company in busi-  
ness since 1924 and Carbondale Transfer,  
operating since 1946.

As a result, the city police department's  
juvenile office is continuing the investiga-  
tion. Patrolman Joseph Piskavay took the  
initial report.

In the past Mapewood Cemetery has seen  
vandalism topple tombstones, throw garbage  
around, break stain glass windows on a  
crypt, and remove vault covers.

The cemetery has also been the scene of  
drinking parties by youths.

## Vandals again strike city's Maplewood Cemetery

A shocking situation which has plagued  
area cemeteries from time to time has  
again struck the city of Carbondale.

Youthful vandals have again wreaked  
havoc on the Maplewood Cemetery, located  
along Cemetery Street in Carbondale.

Carbondale police told the MIRROR  
that a couple of fires have recently been set  
in the rear of the cemetery.

The police also reported that about a half  
dozen tombstones were toppled.

And, according to the caretaker, the office  
building was broken into.

The vandalism took place over a period of  
a week around the Labor Day weekend.

Police say the vandalism is caused by  
juveniles.

The cemetery has also been the scene of  
drinking parties by youths.